



## **Illinois Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes**

### **Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes Meeting Minutes July 29, 2021**

**On July 29, 2021, at 3:05 p.m. the Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes held a remote meeting pursuant to applicable law.**

The following commissioners were present: Bahena, Banerji, Buys, Justicz, Kang, Kano, Limmer, Meek, Noriega, Reynolds, Rosensweig, Sayeed, Tamley, Uhe-Edmonds, and Chair Bennett.

The following commissioners were absent: Goldenberg and Kelly.

Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM. Department of Human Rights (IDHR) Director of Legislative Affairs Adam Flores took a roll call to establish a quorum, as reflected above.

#### *Approval of Minutes.*

On a motion from Comm'r. Limmer and a second from Comm'r. Kano, the minutes of the April 29, 2021, meeting of the Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes were approved by voice vote.

Chair Bennett thanked the commissioners for their work so far.

#### *Discussion. Commission Timeline and Annual Report.*

Chair Bennett invited IDHR Director of Legislative Affairs Flores to describe a timeline of meetings and milestones for the Commission, which he did.

#### *Discussion. DEI and Implicit Bias Training for the CDHC.*

Chair Bennett invited IDHR Director of the Training Institute Dr. Christina M. Smith to present an overview of a diversity, equity, and inclusion and implicit bias training that will be provided to all Commissioners, which she did.

Comm'r. Bahena said that this first training can evolve into a series of trainings beyond DEI content.

Chair Bennett said that the three committees have begun scheduling speakers, which are open to all commissioners.

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Comm'r. Sayeed said it would be helpful for all commissioners to learn from speakers to gain a base knowledge of hate crimes and hate crimes policy.

Chair Bennett said he would like to schedule the diversity, equity, and inclusion and implicit bias training as soon as possible.

Comm'r. Kano asked if a date would be selected that would allow all commissioners to participate together. Chair Bennett said it may not be possible.

Chair Bennett thanked Smith and Comm'r. Bahena for their work.

*Presentation. Phil Andrew, Co-founder and Principal, PAX Group*

Chair Bennett invited Phil Andrew, Co-founder and Principal of PAX Group, to present on the unique public safety challenges and opportunity in response to hate crimes and extremism, which he did.

Comm'r. Kang asked if state law limits law enforcement intervention in the same way as federal law, and Andrew said more options are available to local law enforcement under state law.

Comm'r. Limmer asked about the point at which hateful speech crosses into incitement. Comm'r. Limmer asked for Andrew to elaborate on the so-called supremacy interrupters. Andrew said there are clear state and federal standards for conspiracy law that allow law enforcement to intervene, but that there is opportunity to further clarify. Andrew said that there are organizations in Illinois involved in interrupting supremacist ideology, but they have limited capacity.

Comm'r. Meek clarified differences between federal and state hate crimes statutes, including that Illinois statute does not require an act of violence for a hate crime charge. Andrew agreed.

Comm'r. Kang asked Comm'r. Meek is a felony conviction under the Illinois hate crime statute triggers a process for the State to limit access to firearms and Firearm Owner's Identification Card. Comm'r. Meek said she will find out.

Chair Bennett asked if Comm'r. Kang's question was answered in the previous exchange. Comm'r. Kang said yes. Comm'r. Kang asked if state and municipal law enforcement agencies have sufficient resources. Andrew said that various law enforcement agencies do not share information sufficiently, which prevents investigations from beginning and developing.

Comm'r. Sayeed said that the federal government has engaged in discriminatory acts against citizens and residents with the stated goal of protecting of national security. Comm'r. Sayeed asked how the Commission and State can address hate and support communities without infringing on people's rights. Andrew said third-party sectors analyzing government actions and engagement lead to greater accountability. Comm'r. Sayeed said the networks commissioners bring to the Commission will allow for deeper community engagement.

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Chair Bennett thanked Andrew for his presentation.

*Presentation. Steven Monroy, Director of Fair Housing Investigations, IDHR.*

Chair Bennett invited IDHR Director of Fair Housing Investigations Steven Monroy to present on a legislative amendment that adds “citizenship, immigration status” to the Illinois hate crimes statute, which he did.

Comm’r. Kang asked if diversion and rehabilitation programs exist for people who convicted of a hate crime. Comm’r. Meek said that generally education and diversion programs have not been used extensively in criminal prosecution.

Comm’r. Meek asked what the effective date of the new amendment to the hate crimes statute is, and Monroy said January 1, 2022.

Comm’r. Justicz said the Commission may pursue developing a curriculum for offenders charged with a hate crime. Chair Bennett asked for clarification on Comm’r. Justicz’s suggestion, which she provided.

Monroy clarified that of the Office of the Illinois Attorney General (IAG) has provided guidance on alternatives to prison in sentencing.

Comm’r. Rosensweig asked if the IAG is able to collect data on how the hate crime statute has been applied in Illinois. No response was provided. Comm’r. Rosensweig asked Monroy what conditions advocates faced in passing the amendment in the General Assembly. Monroy said the bill passed unanimously.

Chair Bennett thanked Monroy for his presentation.

*Committee Reports.*

Chair Bennett invited Comm’rs. Meek and Rosensweig to present the report of the Committee on Legal and Regulatory Environment Committee. Comm’r. Rosensweig asked that a different committee deliver their report due to technical difficulties he was experiencing.

Chair Bennett invited Comm’rs. Banerji and Sayeed to present the report of the Committee on Education and Outreach, which they did, as reflected in the meeting minutes from June 22, 2021.

Chair Bennett invited Comm’rs. Meek and Rosensweig to present the report of the Committee on Legal and Regulatory Environment Committee, which they did, as reflected in the meeting minutes from June 17, 2021, and July 15, 2021.

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Comm'r. Limmer asked if the Legal and Regulatory Environment Committee intends to invite scholars of the First Amendment to testify. Comm'r. Rosensweig said it has not been discussed but is worth exploring.

Chair Bennett invited Comm'rs. Bahena and Limmer to present the report of the Committee on Root Causes and Responses, which they did, as reflected in the meeting minutes from June 13, 2021.

Comm'r. Sayeed asked if the Commission would research discrimination based on faith. Comm'r. Bahena said it is a topic that can be explored at some point after foundation is built for the Commission.

Comm'r. Uhe-Edmonds asked how suggestions for topics to research should be submitted. Chair Bennett said suggestions should be sent to the appropriate committee chairs, as well as Flores, and Chair Bennett.

Comm'r. Noriega said that the Commission should not simply focus on the actions of groups but hate crimes committed by lone actors. Comm'r. Limmer agreed. Comm'r. Noriega said the stories of victims responding to offenders should be elevated in the work of the Commission.

Comm'r. Tamley said the committees may choose to hold joint meetings given overlaps in certain topics.

Chair Bennett said the Commission will explore training options offered by various nonprofit organizations.

Comm'r. Rosensweig said a potential Advisory Council may feature faith leaders. Comm'r. Rosensweig said

Chair Bennett invited Comm'r. Kang to speak on the occasion of his final Commission meeting, which he did.

#### *Public Comment.*

Chair Bennett opened the floor to public comment. There was none.

The Commission having no further business, on a motion from Comm'r. Tamley and a second from Comm'r. Limmer, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 PM.